

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

DECEMBER 1976

9

President: Mr R. Bradfield
Secretary: Mrs R. Mills
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except January), at 8 p.m. in the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC buildings, Mostyn Street, Castlemaine).

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the club's sessions.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District Number 4 of a series, by Mrs R. Mills

CALADENIA DILATATA Greencomb Spider-orchid

This is probably the most common spider-orchid around the Castlemaine area, and is easily recognised by its distinctive green combs on each side of the labellum (or lip) which has calli (prominences). The flower is usually solitary and about 2 cm. across. All segments are yellowish green with a central red stripe.

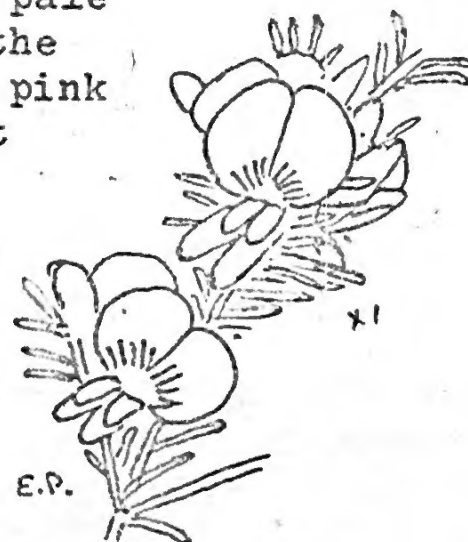
The whole plant is 30-45 cm high. The stem is hairy, as is the solitary, ovate to lanceolate leaf.

The specimen which was used as a model is one of a small colony of a very pale variety which almost lacks the red colouring, having only a pink tinge, and the green is almost

white, and the calli are yellow - a very beautiful and delicate flower.

NEW EGG AND BACON FOR KALIMNA PARK

As far as I am aware, *Pultenaea laxiflora* has not previously been recorded for the Kalimna Park area. It is a very low shrub found mainly in valleys to the N.E. of the reserve.



*Pultenaea
laxiflora*
Kalimna 5/1/76

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority- Proposed Strategy Plan

SURVEY OF CASTLEMAINE AREA

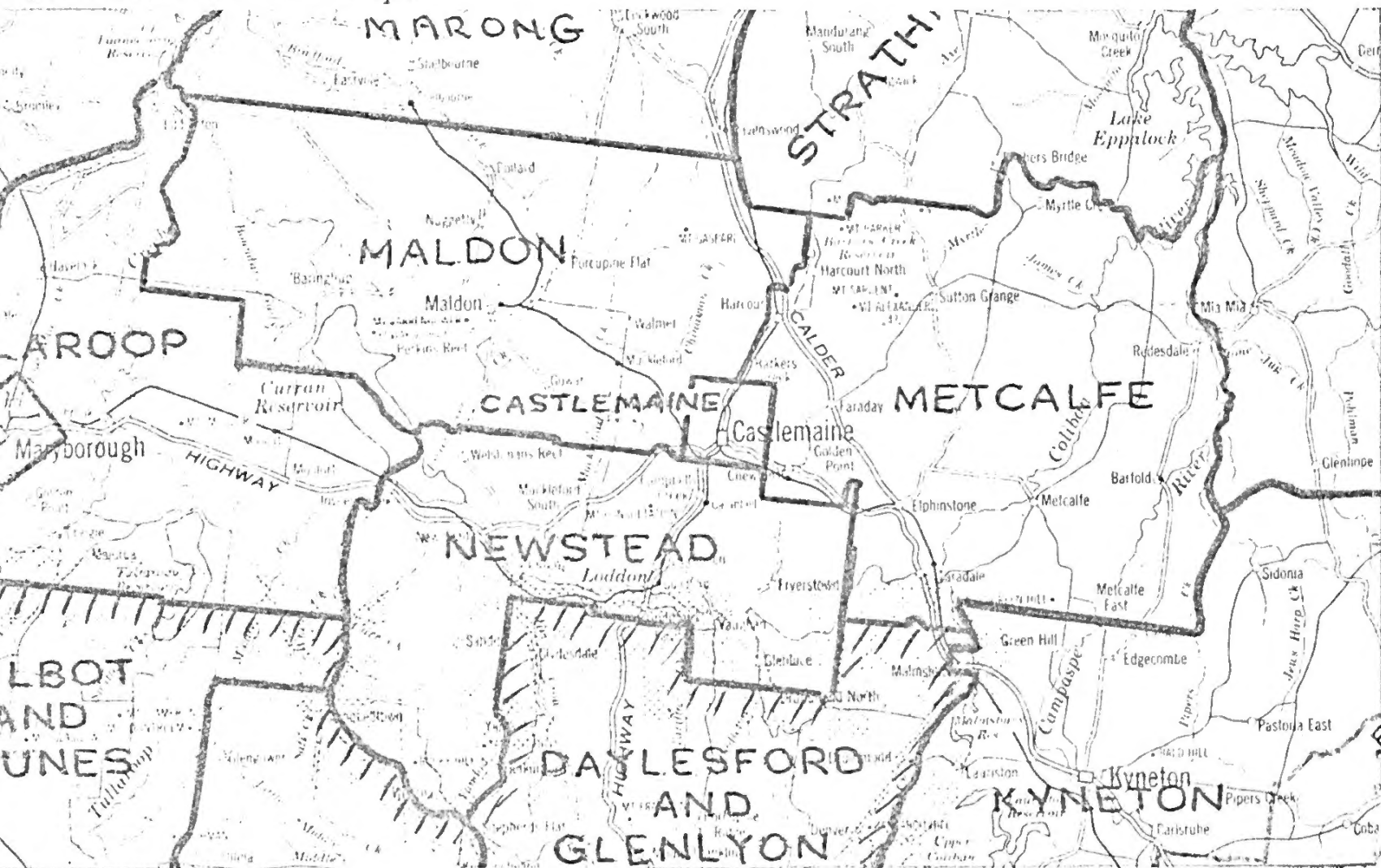
The Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority is a statutory body; it is working towards a strategy plan for the region.

This club has been asked to help with information.

Information will be collected under these headings:-

- botanical quality
- botanical rarity
- bird habitat
- bird rarity
- mammal survey
- geology and terrain
- historical interest and archeological significance.

The east, north and western boundaries of the region are roughly the Capaspe, Murray and Avoca Rivers; part of the southern boundary is shown on the map.



We would provide information for the area near Castlemaine e.g. for the shires of Maldon, Metcalfe and Newstead, and for Castlemaine City.

It will be necessary to rank areas to indicate relative importance. Two possible methods of ranking are given by the Authority. Only the simpler method is described here.

A referee will review our ranking

Botanical Quality Aim is to list areas of high quality natural vegetation warranting protection.

1. Either the best areas of particular vegetation types or large areas of natural vegetation.
2. Very good examples of vegetation or a small area of natural vegetation
3. Good areas or degraded areas capable of restoration.

Botanical Rarity Aim is list rare plants or rare plant associations.

1. Areas with unique species or endangered plant associations; in need of complete protection.
2. Areas with species or vegetation types which are rare in region.
3. Areas with uncommon species or with vegetation types needing protection.

Mammal Survey Aim is to list areas supporting significant native mammal populations.

1. Areas with many species and with significant population densities; or areas with unique species.
2. Areas with many species but with low population densities; or areas with some rare species.
3. Areas with a few species with low population densities; or areas which may be significant but lack a proper survey.

Bird Habitat Aim is to list areas with above average habitat for bird life.

1. Optimum habitat for all or some species.
2. Areas capable of maintaining a very good bird population.
3. Areas reported as containing good bird populations (and maintaining good populations when combined with other areas)

Bird Rarity Aim is to list areas with rare bird species, or areas able to attract or maintain unusual birds.

1. Areas with endangered species.
2. Areas with birds that could become endangered if their habitat is further reduced (e.g. water-fowl, waders)
3. Areas which maintain, or are visited by, birds which are unusual for the region.

Geology and Terrain Aim is to list geological and terrain features of scientific, educational or recreational interest.

1. Features which are unique or of very great interest.
2. Rare features, or the best example in the region.
3. Features which are uncommon in the region or are good examples of some geological structure.

Historical and Archeological Details not yet available.

(These notes summarise the 20 page letter from the planning authority. Copies of all or part are available to members on request. We will invite a speaker from the authority to speak to us.)

Sample Record Sheet (suggested)

CONSERVATION CATEGORY

Bird Habitat

FEATURE NUMBER (As shown on map) 6

NAME/LOCALITY (Underline name; map reference from 1:250 000 map)

Bell's Swamp on Maldon - Dunolly Rd

Map ref: ?

EXISTING LAND USE

Some grazing

LAND TENURE/MANAGEMENT

Private property?

NOTES

1. Swamp lands are rare in this district
2. Main road passes through middle of swamp - hence swamp is particularly accessible
3. Swamp is used extensively by Naturalist and Educational groups: best area in this district to see wide range of water birds.

RANK 1-2

DESIRABLE MANAGEMENT

Unauthorised shooting is known to occur.
Easy access results in considerable public use

NAME & ADDRESS OF RECORDER

DATE

E. Perkins, Castlemaine FWC

26/11/76.

EXCURSION TO TARNAGULLA Excursion report by Mr F. Meyer.

(A joint excursion by bus, organised by the Historical Society)

The group was met at Dunolly by John Flett who led a bus tour of the town. We saw the Cobb and Co booking office, and stables (still in a good state of preservation), the bank where the welcome stranger nugget was weighed and sold, the Wesleyan Church and Sunday School, the Church of England, Court House, Town Hall and some good examples of miners' cottages. After lunch we visited the Dunolly museum, to see a really large collection of firearms and mining implements, some of the local flora and fauna, and household utensils - in all about 7000 exhibits.

In the afternoon we saw some of the country between Dunolly and Tarnagulla and had a brief walk through the bush, being met at Tarnagulla by Ron Carless who has a close knowledge of the history of the district. We visited the principle areas where gold was first dis-

covered in 1852 at Sandy Creek (now Tarnagulla), passing the one-time busy Jones Creek (Waanyarra). In the 1850's rich gold was discovered here and a town soon grew up -with a Church, School, store and many houses. Today only a few fruit trees and some stone foundations remain. Tarnagulla gives the impression of having been a particularly substantial town in the early days- due perhaps to the very rich reef to the east of the town -the reef was worked at deep levels for many years.

Leaving Tarnagulla, we had a walk through an ironbark forest where a number of interesting plants were found. Plants seen were an Olearia, one of the wattles known as Wallowa, wild Cranberry, the Leafless Currant Bush, Flame Heath, Varnish Wattle, Gold-dust Wattle and Chocolate Lily.

Llanecoorie Weir was also visited; this was the first water storage built in Victoria for irrigation.

Ron Carless gave us a warm invitation to repeat our visit to the area and cover the mining districts to the north of Tarnagulla.

I believe that the trip was most useful in that going by bus you have the opportunity to meet and talk with people. Many of those in the Historical Society are keen to learn more about our flora and fauna, and appear to hold similar views to our own on conservation and the environment.

If a future trip could be arranged we may be able to put some time aside for walking through selected areas of the bush. Perhaps local residents could be invited to join with us and help with their knowledge of the country and its plants, flowers and trees.

Book Reviews

THE MOSSES OF SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA, by George A. M. Scott and Ilma G. Stone, illustrated by Gelia Rosser (Academic Press; \$29.50).

With this first real manual ever published of Australian mosses the authors have laid an invaluable foundation for further study by both amateurs and professionals.

Here there is a readily understandable text accompanied by beautiful line drawings of more than 100 species and a thoughtfully provided glossary to make identification easy for the amateur. No less important is reference to a most extensive bibliography.

Age 27/11/76

AUSTRALIAN FERNS AND FERN ALLIES D.L. Jones and S.C. Clemesha, published by Reed; price is \$12.95.

This is an excellent book. It describes all of the Australian ferns, with clear line drawings of each as well. Descriptions are clearly set out in easily understood language. At today's prices it is excellent value.

I recommend it to all who are interested in our ferns.

CFNC ANNUAL MAGAZINE

The committee has decided to publish it early in the new year. Most articles will be reprints of articles from the monthly newsletter. Further articles are asked for from club members.

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Hedge	7.7*
Mitchells	5.4, 7.7*
Ploughshare	7.7*
Rough	7.6*
Silver	4.4, 7.7*
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Spike	5.4, 7.7*
Thin-leaf	7.7*
Woolly	5.4, 7.7*
sp	5.4

Plants (Scientific name, exc orchids)

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acinacea	7.6*
aculeatissima	7.7*
armata	7.7*
aspera	7.6*
baileyana	7.6
dealbata	7.6*, 4.4
diffusa	3.4, 7.7*
genistifolia	3.4, 7.7*
gunnii	7.7*
lanigera	5.4, 7.7*
mitchellii	5.4, 7.7*
oxycedrus	7.7*
paradoxa	7.7*
prominens	7.7
pycnantha	7.7*
sp	4.5
Amyema quandang	4.1
A. preissii	5.7
Angophora intermedia	1.3

Boronia

aneminifolia	7.6*
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Bossiaea prostrata	5.5*
Callitris endlicheri	4.6
Cassia arcuata	2.7
Centipda cunninghamii	2.2
Correa reflexa	5.4, 7.6*
Dichopogon strictus	5.6
Dillwynia sericea	7.6*
Dodonaea angustissima	4.5
Drosera whittakeri	7.6
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calophylla	4.4
citriodora	4.5
cladocalyx	4.4
dives	5.5
globulus	4.6
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Eriostemon verrucosus	7.6*
Gompholobium huegelii	8.6*
Grevillea sp	5.5*
G. alpina	7.6
Hakea laurina	4.4
Helichrysum bracteatum	9.1

Hovea heterophylla	7.6*
Hybanthus floribundus	5.2, 7.6*
Leucopogon virgatus	7.0*
Mimulus repens	2.2*
Oxylobium procumbens	5.5*
Persoonia rigida	5.5*
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Book Review

THE BIRDS OF THE BENDIGO DISTRICT is compiled by the Bird Observers Group of the Bendigo Field Naturalist's Club, and is published by the Bird Observers Club, Melbourne. 28 pages, its price is \$1.50. It contains 7 black and white photographs, all by Mr A. Hartup (our speaker at the December meeting). Although based on Bendigo, its information will be of interest to all bird observers. We can obtain the book at a discount - orders will be taken at the meeting.

CLUB PROGRAM

December Meeting Frid Dec 10
Speaker: Mr A. Hartup.
Subject: Local Plants and animals.

January In recess.

February Meeting Frid Feb 11
This is the annual meeting.
Speaker Mr G. Sitch.
Subject Propagation of native plants.

March Meeting Friday March 11
Subject: Astronomy.

April Meeting Friday April 8
Speaker: Mr R. Bradfield
Subject: Aborigines of the Castlemaine District.

Treasurer's Report

Magazine sales: \$1.00

Balance: \$68.82

There are now 29 members- single or family groups; total membership would thus be well over 40 adults.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions paid now are current until the end of 1977

Single \$3

Family \$5

Student/Junior \$1.

Car-stickers available

Grass tree stickers are available from the treasurer-cost is 30 ¢. The grass-tree motif is used by many natural history groups throughout Australia.

Club Emblem

Seven possible emblems have been drawn by Mr Sitch. The first of these to be shown (page 1) is Golden everlasting (*Helichrysum bracteatum*). It is a feature of the Castlemaine forests in late November -early December.

Excursions

Saturday December 11 Mt Alexander
This is our final excursion for the year. Leave the Education Centre at 1.30 sharp.
Leader: Mr M. Winterbottom.

Saturday Feb 12 Native gardens and/or Kaweka.

March Excursion Evening- astronomy with a pair of binoculars.

April Excursion Vaughan District.
A walking excursion.
Leader: Mr R. Bradfield.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Education Centre Membership
Users of the Education Centre are asked to become members of the centre. Widespread support for the centre will help ensure its continuation. Application forms for 1977 will be available at our meetings.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority is conducting a survey of our area, and have asked for our help. The committee recommends that we assist.

Display space at Market
A display cabinet is available at the Market for displays e.g. for about a fortnight.

Committee Members
Mr R. Bradfield (Pres), Mrs R. Mills(Sec), Mr L. Bransgrove(Treas), Mr G. Broadway (VP), Mr G. Sitch (VP), Mr & Mrs M Winterbottom, Miss J. Chapman, Mr F. Meyer, Mr E. Perkins(news-sheet editor).

Distribution of Castlemaine Naturalist Members may get their copy from the Market. Copies are available from the foyer of the Education Centre (cost- 10¢)